

THE GHOST AND MOLLY MCGEE

"SAVING PURIM"

525B-307 - Final Draft

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INT. SYNAGOGUE - DAY

Pews are packed, JEWISH FAMILIES are in a festive mood. Kids are dressed in random costumes (a princess, a skunk, a ninja, etc). The RABBI addresses the room.

1 **RABBI**

Chag Purim Sameach! We're in for a
special treat as our own Libby
Stein-Torres will do this year's
megillah reading!

MOLLY (in a SUPREME COURT ROBE) <CHEERS> from the audience.
SCRATCH floats next to her.

2 **MOLLY**

Wooo! Go Libby!

(then, to Scratch)

Though I'm still not sure why I'm
dressed as a Supreme Court Justice
and Libby is a giant cookie...

3 **SCRATCH**

Me neither, but I like Purim
already! Bet this holiday has a fun
and lighthearted backstory!

The Rabbi steps aside as LIBBY (dressed as HAMANTASCHEN)
steps up to the podium.

SONGBURST: "THE STORY OF PURIM" a la Encanto's "The Family
Madrigal," recaps the Book of Esther:

-- In ancient times, ESTHER, a brave Jewish queen, saved her
people by digging deep to find her courage.

-- It all started when a proud Jew refused to bow down to an
evil dude named HAMAN (who wears a signature stupid hat).

(**NOTE:** because Mordecai is not a character in our episode's
allegory, this should be seen in animation, but not
referenced in song.)

-- Offended, Haman convinces the KING to let him execute his
evil scheme to rid Jews from the land.

-- It's up to Esther as the Queen to beg the King to stop
this scheme. Knowing she risks death, she musters her courage
to inform the king of what's really going on.

-- Esther saves the day! Haman is humiliated and vanquished!

-- And as tradition goes, Purim is a fun, festive, exuberant
holiday!

*Everyone wears costumes, eats cookies in the shape of Haman's hat, and shake noisemakers whenever Haman's name is mentioned as a symbol to blot him from history. **END SONGBURST.*** *

Libby finishes and takes her seat next to Molly and Scratch.

4 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
You're telling me Jews turned that
potentially horrifying event into
a... happy holiday?

5 **LIBBY**
Not only a happy one, but my
favorite holiday! *

6 **SCRATCH**
Better than Hanukkah?! I loved all
that fried food so much I sang a
song, remember? So I don't see how
Purim could possibly beat-- *

Scratch spots a BASKET FILLED WITH FOOD. His eyes bulge.

7 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
Wha wha wha... WHAT. IS. THAT?! *

8 **LIBBY** *
My *mishloach manot*. It's a Purim
mitzvah! You give baskets of food
in a celebration of good will. And *
now that I'm a woman, I'm giving *
away my very own basket!

Scratch's tongue creeps toward the basket. Molly snatches it, *
pulls, and snaps it back -- It SMACKS Scratch in the face. *

9 **SCRATCH** *
 (slack tongue) *
Aggrethive. *

EXT. BRIGHTON PARK - SHORT TIME LATER

Molly and Libby approach the park's entrance. Scratch floats
behind, carrying the basket.

10 **LIBBY**
This Purim is extra special,
because Jews from all the
surrounding towns are coming to
Brighton for the--UMPH! *

Libby walks right into the POLICE TAPE, tangling herself up *
like a fly trapped in a spider web. *

11 **MOLLY**

Uh, Libby? Police tape? I could've
loaned you some streamers.

*
*

MR. HERMAN enters. He's stiff, cold, calculating, and wears a
dumb hat.

*
*

12 **HERMAN**

Untangle yourself. That tape is
official Brighton property paid for
by official Brighton tax payers.

*
*
*

Libby falls out of the police tape. <OOF!>

13 **LIBBY**

There must be some mistake, Mr...?

14 **HERMAN**

Herman. Brighton's new Head of
Regulations and Enforcement.

15 **LIBBY**

Um, Mr. Herman, we planned a "Purim
in the Park" carnival for today.
See? We have a permit.

*
*
*

Libby hands him her permit.

*

16 **HERMAN**

Yes. But we revised our permit
policy this morning. Yours is no
longer valid,
(with disdain)
Miss Stein-Torres.

*
*
*
*
*
*

He tears up the permit. Scratch, dressed as a referee, blows
a WHISTLE.

*
*

17 **SCRATCH**

That tone was of bounds!

*
*

Molly gestures to people playing turnipball in the park.

*

18 **MOLLY**

But the 40 & over Amateur
Turnipball League is using the
park, and I know they didn't get a
permit. Elbert refuses to turn in
any government forms!

*
*
*

ELBERT pops in, shaking a CANE.

*

19 **ELBERT**

I play by my own rules!

*

20 **PATTY**
Which is why we always lose.

21 **HERMAN**
I granted them an exception as
Turnipball is culturally
significant. It's as Brighton as
turnip-pie.

22 **LIBBY**
Purim's culturally significant!
It's a Jewish holiday!

23 **HERMAN**
And now you're yelling at a public
official? I knew this "festival"
would be trouble...

He hands her another ticket.

24 **HERMAN** (CONT'D)
Your celebration is cancelled. Stop
disturbing these good people and go
home.

Herman turns on his heels and exits.

25 **SCRATCH**
Wow. That guy is INCREDIBLY
unlikeable. Real villain energy.

26 **MOLLY**
He can't cancel Purim... Can he?

27 **LIBBY**
He can not! We'll regroup at the
bookstore.

Molly and Libby exit. Scratch points to the basket left
behind.

28 **SCRATCH**
Libby forgot her basket.
(feigns calling out)
Libby! Come back. Oh no. Please....
(smiles)
Welp. I tried. Really exhausted all
avenues, right Plan B?

PLAN B rises up next to Scratch.

29 **PLAN B**
Well actually, boss, you could--

30 **SCRATCH**
 SHUT IT, PLAN B! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF
 YOUR MORALIZING!!!

Scratch tugs on the ribbon.

31 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 Look, I'm just gonna try one
 bite... for quality assurance.

He takes a bite of a COOKIE. Chews. Smiles. Then, as if
 hypnotized, he quickly gorges on everything Tasmanian Devil-
 style. He comes out of his crazed state <HUFFING.>

32 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 (mortified)
 What have I done?! (beat) I mean,
 might as well get the crumbs.

He tips the crumbs from the basket into his mouth. Then:

33 **SCRATCH** (CONT'D)
 BUT WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - DAY

Libby stands before her mom and the other Jewish families.

34 **LIBBY**
 Herman can't stop "Purim in the
Park in the Bookstore!" Right?

Everyone <CHEERS!> Molly, carrying a CLIPBOARD, acts as
 foreman. People scurry around her, hauling various
 CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES.

35 **MOLLY**
 Let's set Esther's Crown Toss
 there. And the DIY section is a
 natural for the Build-Your-Own
 Grogger station.

Scratch pops in carrying the basket behind his back. His eyes
 shifty. He goes to drop the basket off when GEOFF portals in.

36 **SCRATCH**
 Geoff? What are you doing here?

37 **GEOFF**
 I came to celebrate Purim, silly!

38 **SCRATCH**
 You're Jewish!?

39 **GEOFF**

Of course! You've come to my
Passover Seder *multiple* times!

POP TO:

INT. GEOFF & JEFF'S HOUSE - ETERNAL NIGHT

Geoff and Jeff have the table prepped for Seder. The head of the table has a PLATE OF FOOD and a KIDDUSH CUP, but the CHAIR is empty. Scratch reaches for the plate.

40 **SCRATCH**

So this empty place for Elijah is
just symbolic, right? Seems a shame
to waste good gefilte fish...

Scratch's hand is slapped away by... ELIJAH!

41 **ELIJAH**

Hey that's mine!
(to everyone)
Sorry I'm late! Had to visit every
Seder. You know how it goes!

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - DAY

Back to scene. Scratch taps his chin, remembering.

42 **SCRATCH**

Oh right. I remember the kugel.
(then) Geoff! If you're Jewish, you
probably know a thing or two about
mishloach manot...

*
*

Scratch holds the basket out to Geoff.

43 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**

SOMEONE -- not me, and I resent the
judgey look in your eyes -- ate
everything in Libby's basket, and
OKAY it was me... BUT I found some
stuff around the park to replace it
all... Think she'll notice?

*
*

Geoff sifts through the basket's contents.

44 **GEOFF**

Half eaten sandwich? Acorns?
Fountain water?

*

45 **SCRATCH**

No good? I used the freshest
fountain water the park had.

INSERT: A BIRD drinks from the fountain then dies. Its GHOST
flies away.

46 **GEOFF**

Don't worry, your best pal Geoff is
here to help.

EXT. BRIGHTON - MAIN STREET - DAY

Herman thrusts a SLIP into PAM's hands. The MAYOR watches.

47 **PAM**

A fine for unregulated sign height?

48 **HERMAN**

And for using a garish font.

(to the Mayor)

You see, Mayor Brunson? You give
these people an inch; they take a
baker's dozen.

49 **MAYOR BRUNSON**

I had no idea so many violations
were going unnoticed.

Herman tips his hat but then freezes, his senses tingling.

50 **HERMAN**

Something... is amiss. I sense... a
rule being broken...

Mayor Brunson leans in trying to sense "the rules" too.

INT. BOOK MARKS THE SPOT - DAY

The carnival is underway! Everyone is having a blast. Libby
tosses a DART at a BOARD covered in BALLOONS WITH HAMAN'S
FACE DRAWN ON THEM. She misses, and it flies O.S. <YEOWCH!>

51 **LIBBY**

Oops! Sorry Aunt Tali!

Gordie sits at a FORTUNE TELLER BOOTH. He waves his hands
over a CRYSTAL BALL.

52 **GORDIE**

I see the future in my crystal
ball! <GASP!> I see Molly McGee--

Molly walks past Gordie.

53 **GORDIE** (CONT'D)
--walking away... Aw man!

Molly sidles up next to Libby, throwing an arm around her. *

54 **MOLLY**
It's a little more cramped than the
park, but it's still a carnival! *

55 **LIBBY**
Yeah, we did it! We saved Purim!

SLAM! Herman stands in the doorway. The room goes quiet. He thrusts another FINE in MS. STEIN-TORRES hands.

56 **MS. STEIN-TORRES**
A noise complaint? You're kidding.

Ms. S-T rips up the fine and throws it in the air. *

57 **MS. STEIN-TORRES** (CONT'D)
We're in my bookstore. What right
do you have to cancel our holiday?

Herman strolls through the store, inspecting the displays. He
plucks a Haman balloon and squeezes it til it <POPS.> *

58 **HERMAN**
Watch your tone, Ms. Stein-Torres.
I am but a humble public servant
trying to better my town. *

59 **MS. STEIN-TORRES**
This is our town too. *

Herman <CHUCKLES,> a smirk creeps on his face.

60 **HERMAN**
For now. But what Brighton needs-- *

A GROGGER cuts his words off. The Jewish families try and stifle their <LAUGHTER.> Herman fumes, face red with anger. *

61 **HERMAN** (CONT'D)
Excuse me! Brighton needs to
reaffirm its-- *

More GROGGERS! *

62 **HERMAN** (CONT'D)
--reaffirm its traditional values
and-- *

ALL THE GROGGERS! His face burns red with anger. He starts quickly counting people in the room.

63 **HERMAN** (CONT'D)
 (muttering/counting)
 One--ten--twelve--twenty two--Sixty
 --Eighty-five!
 (officious)
 Max capacity! Fire code violation!
 By order of Brighton, this store is
 closed until further notice!

He rips off a ticket and hands it to Ms. S-T.

64 **MS. STEIN-TORRES**
 Now hold on. We definitely don't
 have that many people here!

Herman points to LIBBY'S TURTLES, in their tank, having their own mini-Purim celebration.

65 **HERMAN**
 Those turtles each count as a
 person.

66 **LIBBY**
 What?! No they don't!
 (reassuring to turtles)
 Yes, you do.

Herman sneers at Ms. Stein-Torres.

67 **HERMAN**
 You may petition to reopen your
 business at next month's City
 Council meeting. Good day.

Herman tips his hat and leaves. Everyone is stunned.
 Simon looks down in shame.

INT. MCGEE HOME - KITCHEN - VARIOUS

Geoff holds his hands up like a surgeon prepping for surgery.
 Scratch straps an APRON around Geoff.

68 **GEOFF**
 Since this is Libby's first
mishloach manot, let's put some
 real love and care into it.

69 **SCRATCH**
 Right. I was thinking maybe some
 chocolate Yim Yums and--

70 **GEOFF**
I need fifty CCs of honey and figs
STAT!

71 **SCRATCH**
Who measures in CCs?

72 **GEOFF**
I SAID STAT, SCRATCH!

Scratch <YELPS!> then zips around, throwing the ingredients into a MIXING BOWL. Geoff, dead serious, holds up an ELECTRIC MIXER and clicks it on.

73 **GEOFF** (CONT'D)
Let's mix it up.

Scratch looks on incredulous and Geoff mixes.

74 **SCRATCH**
Geoff, I'm always learning
something new about you.

75 **GEOFF**
 (serious)
 I'm a man of many mysteries,
 Scratch. Many. Mysteries.
 (light-hearted)
 Just kidding! This is the last one.
 You know everything about me now!
 (serious)
 Or maybe there's more...
 (lighthearted)
 Nah, that's it.
 (serious)
 Probably.

INT. BOOKS MARKS THE SPOT - LATER

Everyone breaks down the booths. Libby cradles Simon as he lazily chews on her cookie costume.

76 **LIBBY**
It's not your fault, Simon. Herman
was going to find a way to cancel
Purim one way or another.

Molly sits next to Libby.

77 **MOLLY**
Libby, we can still beat Herman!

78 **LIBBY**

I appreciate your passion, but Mr.
Herman is a city official hired by
the Mayor himself! (sigh) And I'm
not feeling the Purim spirit
anymore.

*
*
*
*

BEAT. Then Molly's frown turns to a smile. She's got an idea!

*

79 **MOLLY**

The Purim spirit! That's it! Libby,
you've got to plead your case to
the Mayor!

*
*
*
*

80 **LIBBY**

You're asking me to face authority
figures? In public?!

*
*
*

Libby turtles into her costume. Simon looks at Libby and
turtles into his shell too.

*
*

81 **LIBBY** (CONT'D)

You know confrontation gives me
stress hives!

*
*

Molly pulls her head out, squishing Libby's cheeks.

*

82 **MOLLY**

When Esther was asked to talk to
the King, did she let fear stop
her?

Molly whips out one of the ESTHER CROWNS from the carnival
game and places it on Libby's head. Libby stares at her own
reflection in a mirror. Libby narrows her eyes, determined.

*
*
*

83 **LIBBY**

I can be brave... like Esther!

INT. BRIGHTON - CITY HALL - DAY

The Mayor and the other CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS nod off,
struggling to stay awake. Herman stands at a podium.

84 **HERMAN**

Infraction #132. The candles at Wax
& Wayne are corrupting our youth
with unnatural fragrances like
"Berry-nilla Breeze." I propose--

*
*
*

Then, WHAM! Libby kicks open the doors.

85 **LIBBY**

Mr. Mayor, I've got something to say!

Herman goes red in the face, and flustered.

86 **HERMAN**

You can't burst in *here!* It's a mid-meeting *misdemeanor!*

Mayor Brunson scratches his head as he consults his notes.

87 **MAYOR BRUNSON**

And I don't see "child gives spontaneous inspirational speech" on today's agenda...

Libby takes the podium and steadies herself --

88 **LIBBY**

Then update the agenda, cause I'm here to speak truth to power!

SONGBURST REPRISE: "THE POWER OF PURIM." *Libby channels Esther and pleads her case, exposing Herman's true agenda. "Don't you see what he's doing? He's using minor infractions and made-up rules to get rid of us!" Brighton can't cancel a beloved Jewish tradition just because one powerful, small-minded man says so! He is punishing them for being different and trying to make life miserable for the most vulnerable of Brightonians, just like Haman did. END SONGBURST.*

89 **LIBBY (CONT'D)**

You can't let Mr. Herman cancel Purim. *It's a wonderful holiday that brings friends, family, and community together to celebrate the joy of being Jewish!*

Libby glares at Herman.

90 **LIBBY (CONT'D)**

And despite what some people think, *Brighton is a great town because we aren't all the same!*

The Mayor and the Councilmembers whisper <AGREEABLE WALLA.> Herman grabs the mic from Libby.

91 **HERMAN**

Don't be fooled, Mayor Brunson. Anything sounds convincing in song!

Herman <CLEAR HIS THROAT> and starts to <BEAT BOX TERRIBLY.>

92 **HERMAN** (CONT'D)
My name's Mr. H / and I'm here to
say / These miscreants defile
Brighton/ In ev-er-y way! / Ah-
break it dooown!

He leans back, crossing his arms like a rapper. It's painfully uncool.

93 **MAYOR BRUNSON**
Yikes.
 (then to crowd)
I've heard enough. You, sir, aren't
bettering **Brighton**. You're fired.

Pam, Wax & Wayne, and all our Jewish families smile.

94 **HERMAN**
You haven't heard the last of Herm--

<GROGGER NOISES> drown him out. **REVEAL:** Molly and others in the crowd shake groggers. Herman <HUFFS>, takes his hat, and storm off. Everyone <CHEERS!>

EXT. BRIGHTON PARK - SHORT TIME LATER

Purim in the Park is back on! Even the **MCGEES** and **CHENS** have joined in on the fun. The carnival games have been moved to the park. Molly steps up on a **BOX** carrying a **BULLHORN** to get everyone's attention.

95 **MOLLY**
A round of applause for the hero of
the hour... Libby Stein-Torres!

Libby blushes and waves to the crowd. They <CHEER> in return before scattering to play games.

96 **MOLLY** (CONT'D)
You saved Purim, Libby!

97 LIBBY
I did, didn't I?

98 **MOLLY**
And you didn't get stress hives!

99 LIBBY
Oh no, I definitely did.

She rolls up her sleeves to reveal some gnarly HIVES.

100 **MOLLY**
 Ew. Still, I'm so proud of you.

*
 *

They hug as Geoff and Scratch float in carrying the basket.

*

101 **SCRATCH**
 This is torture! You gotta let me
 have one little hamantaschen! No
 one will notice one missing cookie!

102 **GEOFF**
 Sorry, Scratch. Today is about
 giving, not receiving.

Scratch <GROANS.> Geoff stays behind as Scratch floats over
 to Libby. Scratch pushes the basket to her.

103 **SCRATCH**
 Here's your *mishloach manot*. I was
 just... uh, keeping it safe for
 you. Now you can...

Scratch looks over to Geoff for help. Geoff rotates his hands
 like a stage-mom and mouths Scratch's lines.

104 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**
 ... gift it to someone special to
 fulfill your mitzvah and become
 closer with a friend or loved one.

105 **LIBBY**
 Scratch, did you read the tag?

*
 *

Scratch flips over the basket's tag. It reads: TO SCRATCH.

106 **SCRATCH**
 This basket is... for me?

Scratch tosses a hamantaschen and catches it in his mouth.

107 **SCRATCH (CONT'D)**
 I love Purim!

*

Elbert pops in and chomps down on a hamantaschen with a wink.

108 **ELBERT**
 Figged!

THE END.